

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Locking device for a vehicle door, comprising:

a lock arranged between an inside panel and an outside panel of a vehicle door, which outside panel is fastened to the inside panel, said lock having a release lever arranged between the inside panel and the outside panel for moving the lock from a lock position of the lock to an unlocked position, and

an outside operating mechanism acting upon the release lever by way of a force transmission element, the outside operating mechanism comprising a supporting part fastened to an interior side of the outside panel and a swivelable pull handled arranged on an exterior side of the outside panel,

wherein a catching device is provided, as viewed in a driving direction, adjacent a rear side of the lock within the vehicle door, and is operatively connected to the inside panel such that during a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catching device interacts with a supporting part of the outside operating mechanism and limits a bulging of the outside panel toward the outside, the catching device comprising a catch pin extending substantially in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and a holding part which is aligned substantially in a transverse direction of the vehicle and has a receiving device surrounding the catch pin, and in an inoperative normal locked position of the vehicle door, the receiving device of the holding part extends at a radial distance from the interior catch pin, whereas, starting from a

defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catch pin is locally supported on the outer edge of the receiving device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Locking device according to Claim 1, wherein a catch pin is provided on the supporting part.

4. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin is constructed in one piece with the supporting part.

5. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin is formed by a separately manufactured part which can be fastened to the supporting part.

6 - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

11. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 5, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

12. (Currently Amended) Locking device according to Claim [[6]]1, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

15. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

16. (Currently Amended) Locking device according to Claim [[6]]1, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of the lock.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

19. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

20. (Currently Amended) Locking device according to Claim [[6]]1, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or to the lock.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 3, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

23. (Original) Locking device according to Claim 4, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

24. (Currently Amended) Locking device according to Claim [[6]]1, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

25 - 31. (Canceled)

32. (New) Locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the outside panel is fastened at its outer edge to an outer edge of the inside panel.

33. (New) Locking device for a vehicle door, comprised of an inside door panel and an outside door panel fastened together, comprising a lock fastenable to the inside door panel between the inside panel and the outside door panel and having a release lever for moving the lock from a locking position thereof; an outside operating mechanism arranged to act upon the release lever via a force transmission element and comprising a supporting part fastenable to an interior side of the outside door panel and a swivelable pull handle disposed on an exterior side of the outside door; and a catching device arranged adjacent to the lock inside the vehicle door so as to be interactable with the supporting part during a defined transverse acceleration acting upon the vehicle, and thereby to limit bulging of the outside door panel away from the inside door panel exteriorly of the door.

34. (New) Locking device according to Claim 33, wherein the catching device comprises a catch pin.

35. (New) Locking device according to Claim 34, wherein the catch pin is constructed in one piece with the supporting part.

36. (New) Locking device according to Claim 33, wherein the catch pin is formed by a separately manufactured part which can be fastened to the supporting part.

37. (New) Locking device according to Claim 33, wherein the catching device comprises a catch pin extending substantially in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and a holding part which is aligned substantially in a transverse direction of the vehicle and has a receiving device surrounding the catch pin.

38. (New) Locking device according to Claim 37, wherein in an inoperative normal locked position of the vehicle door, the receiving device of the holding part extends at a radial distance from the interior catch pin, whereas, starting from a defined lateral acceleration acting upon the vehicle, the catch pin is locally supported on the outer edge of the receiving device.

39. (New) Locking device according to Claim 35, wherein the holding part is formed by a molded-on lug of an interior door reinforcement.

40. (New) Locking device according to Claim 37, wherein the holding part is formed by a bent-away lug of an interior door reinforcement.

41. (New) Locking device according to Claim 37, wherein the holding part is fastened to the inside panel or the lock.

42. (New) Locking device according to Claim 37, wherein the catch pin protrudes through the receiving device of the holding part and projects beyond the receiving device on both sides.

43. (New) Locking device according to Claim 33, wherein the outside panel is fastened at its outer edge to an outer edge of the inside panel.